

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) for its service to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans.

The Foundation began in 2003 by the inspiration of Catherine Roberts of Delaware, whose son was serving in Iraq. Tormented at the thought of a soldier sitting on his lonely cot in despair, Ms. Roberts enlisted the service of her local quilt guild to make quilts for Walter Reed Military Medical Center.

Since 2003, QOVF has expanded to over 10,000 volunteer members in over 600 groups nationwide, recently awarding its 350,000th Quilt of Valor. These quilts are made of the finest materials and designs, with each being appraised at a value between \$600–\$1,400. These quilts, however, are not charity quilts—they are ceremoniously bestowed awards earned by servicemembers and veterans for their commitment and sacrifices.

While the estimated impact to the economy is \$10,000,000 per year, the real benefits of these quilts cannot be quantified. Ms. Roberts' vision of providing comfort sends an unequivocal message to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans: "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation." One such veteran, John Rowdy Oxley—a Vietnam-era veteran—served at the Battle of Ap Bac and suffered from extreme PTSD. Now a Board Member of QOVF, John says that his receipt of a Quilt of Valor turned his life around. QOVF boasts of many such testimonies of lives changed by this simple, yet profoundly impactful gift.

QOVF has partnered with American Gold Star Mothers, Authentically American, the National Grange, Wreaths Across America, JDX Racing, the Vietnam War Commemoration, and has a Platinum Rating by GuideStar.

QOVF's contribution to our Nation cannot be overstated. Through the vision provided by Ms. Roberts to wrap the lonely soldier on a cot in a quilt, and through the tireless efforts of the Foundation and its many members, our servicemembers and veterans experience hope and healing. On behalf of the United States Congress, and as a veteran myself, I congratulate the Quilts of Valor Foundation on reaching 350,000 servicemembers and veterans and thank them for their indispensable service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HASSELL FRANKLIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hassell Franklin. Hassell passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at the age of 87. The northeast Mississippi native grew up on a farm and was a classmate of Elvis Presley in Tupelo. He served in the U.S. Army and commanded

the company that protected James Meredith during the integration of the University of Mississippi. He later graduated from Mississippi State University, having earned an industrial engineering degree.

Hassell was the founder and CEO of Franklin Corp., one of the largest privately owned furniture manufacturers in the nation, based out of Houston, Mississippi. The esteemed businessman began Franklin Corp. in 1970, which has been supplying upholstered furniture worldwide for over 50 years.

He was also a philanthropist, establishing a \$1 million endowment at Mississippi State University to build the Franklin Furniture Institute, a research and training center benefiting the furniture community. Hassell was recognized and honored as a Mississippi State Alumnus of the Year, as well as an Itawamba Community College Alumnus of the Year.

During his career, Hassell was actively involved in the community, serving as a past president and board member of the CREATE Foundation, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Regional Rehabilitation Center, United Way of Northeast Mississippi, and Sanctuary Hospice House. He served as lead director of BancorpSouth (now Candence Bank) as well as on the boards of the Mississippi Economic Council, North Mississippi Health Services, the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal Publishing Co., Journal Publishing Houston, Commission on the Future of Northeast Mississippi, Community Development Foundation, and Community Relations Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BECCA BALINT

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, due to illness I was unable to be present on January 24th. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on January 21, 2023, a mass shooting in Monterey Park, California, claimed the lives of 11 people in my district. I remained in my community to respond to this crisis and participate in a vigil for the lives lost during this tragedy. I was unable to be in Washington for votes on January 24, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

IN MEMORY OF EDITH "MIMA" MORISSEAU

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Edith "Mima" Morisseau, a long-

time resident of Detroit, as we mourn her passing.

Whether you knew her as Edith, Edie, or Mima, her warm-hearted nature shined through in all that she did. She was an active member of Detroit's Haitian Network Group, where she served as treasurer. She was an awe-inspiring woman and an advocate for the immigrant community.

Edith emigrated to the U.S. in 1951 and to Detroit in 1956 from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She and her husband, the Reverend E. Dumont Morisseau, came to Detroit with their 3 young children so that the Reverend could perform his work at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Alongside her husband, she was deeply committed to the church and the community, but she also had career goals of her own. Edith enrolled in classes at Mercy College and earned her bachelor's degree in nursing, and much later went on to earn a master's from Wayne State University in psychiatry. Edith was employed by the State of Michigan for numerous years as Head of Psychiatric Nursing, retiring in 1984. She then transitioned to work as a marriage therapist for several years.

Always one to remember those who are less fortunate, she served for more than 20 years as a volunteer with Haiti Outreach Mission, assisting the people of Haiti with various medical needs. She served as warden at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and has provided counseling and nursing to numerous residents of Detroit.

Please join me in recognizing Ms. Edith Morisseau's outstanding contributions to the communities of southeast Michigan as we honor her memory.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM MINNERY

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tom Minnery, who passed away on Christmas Eve.

Tom will be remembered most for his devotion to family and to God. As one of the greatest champions of family values our country has ever known, I am proud to have called him a friend.

In 1987, Tom co-founded Citizen magazine with Dr. James Dobson, a publication dedicated to educating and encouraging Christians to become more engaged citizens. Tom cited Proverbs 11:11 in his very first column, "The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill."

Tom also founded and became senior vice president of Focus on the Family's department of Government and Public Policy. He positioned himself in this role as a leading voice for family values in our nation's most important conversations. This colored his founding of Citizenlink—now Family Policy Alliance—in October 2013, in which he served as CEO and president until his retirement in 2017.

Even in retirement, he remained an active pro-family policy advocate. He was a beloved member of his church, where he served as an elder, and was the recipient of several awards from local civic and church groups. He is survived by his wife, Deb, their 3 children and 7 grandchildren.